

# Mean Field Approximations to Hopfield Nets and Boltzmann Machines

15-486/782: Artificial Neural Networks  
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1

## The Basic Idea

- Replace binary units (0/1 or +1/-1) with continuous-valued units.
- State space:
  - was: "corners of a hypercube" (discrete)
  - now: "interior of the hypercube" (continuous)
- Allows a Hopfield net to consider multiple solutions simultaneously as mixtures of binary states.
- Allows a Boltzmann Machine to estimate  $\langle S_i \rangle$ .

2

## Generalized Hopfield Model (Binary Units, Stochastic Update)

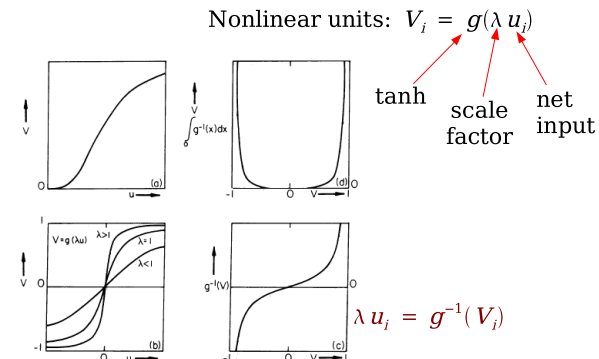
$V_i = \text{state}$   
 $I_i = \text{external input}$   
 $U_i = \text{threshold}$   
 $T_{ij} = \text{coupling matrix, } T_{ij} = T_{ji}, T_{ii} = 0$

$$V_i = \text{sgn}\left(\sum_j T_{ij} V_j + I_i - U_i\right)$$

$$E = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} T_{ij} V_i V_j - \sum_i I_i V_i + \sum_i U_i V_i$$

3

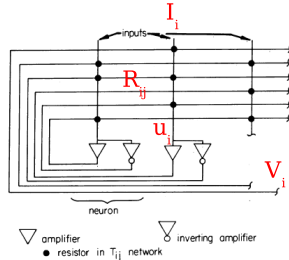
## Continuous, Deterministic Version of Generalized Hopfield Model



4

## RC Circuit

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{ij} &= 1/|T_{ij}| \quad \text{synapse conductance} \\
 \rho_i &= \text{input resistance of amplifier } i \\
 1/R_i &= 1/\rho_i + \sum_j 1/R_{ij} \quad \text{input resistance of neuron } i \\
 u_i &= g^{-1}(V_i) \\
 C_i \frac{du_i}{dt} &= \sum_j T_{ij} V_j - u_i/R_i + I_i
 \end{aligned}$$



Each neuron is a pair of amplifiers.

Separate outputs  $V_i$  and  $\bar{V}_i$  for + and - weights.

5

## Energy Function

$$E = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_j T_{ij} V_i V_j + \sum_i (1/R_i) \int_0^{V_i} g_i^{-1}(V) dV + \sum_i I_i V_i$$

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\sum_i dV_i/dt \underbrace{\left( \sum_j T_{ij} V_j - u_i/R_i + I_i \right)}_{C_i(du_i/dt)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{dE}{dt} &= -\sum C_i (dV_i/dt) (du_i/dt) \\
 &= -\sum C_i g_i^{-1}(V_i) (dV_i/dt)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

6

## Lyapunov Function $\Rightarrow$ Convergence

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\sum C_i g_i^{-1}(V_i) (dV_i/dt)^2$$

Since  $g^{-1}(V_i)$  is monotone increasing and  $C_i$  is positive,  $dE/dt \leq 0$ , and the system will settle into a stable state.

For small  $T=1/\lambda$ , the stable states are hypercube corners.  
For large  $T$  (small  $\lambda$ ), the stable states are interior points.

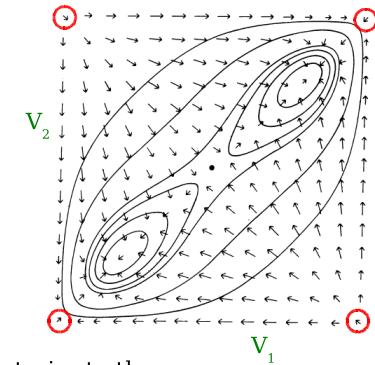
7

## Stable States of a Two-Neuron System for Moderate $\lambda$

$$T_{12} = T_{21} = 1$$

$$\lambda = 1.4$$

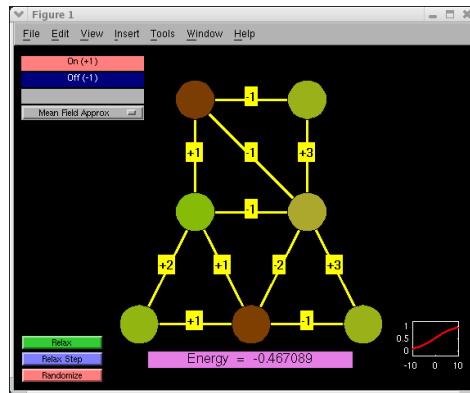
$$g(u) = (2/\pi) \tan^{-1}(\pi \lambda u/2)$$



Note the stable states are interior to the corners.

8

## MATLAB Simulation



## Mean Field Approximation to the Stochastic Hopfield Model

Replace  $V_i$  by  $\langle V_i \rangle$

Or calculate directly as:  $V_i = \tanh(\lambda u_i)$

Temperature  $T = 1/\lambda$

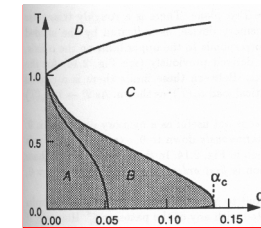
Loading factor  $\alpha = P/N$

A: memory states

B: spin glass states dominate

C: spurious states dominate

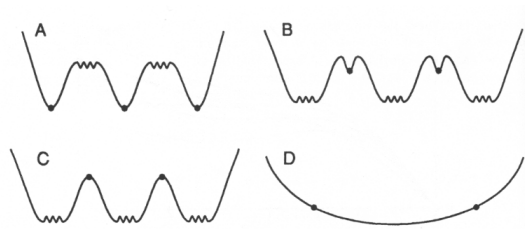
D:  $\langle V_i \rangle = 0$



9

10

## Energy Landscape at Different Temperatures



A: memory states are the principal minima

B: spin glass states dominate: linear combinations of odd numbers of memory states

C: spurious states dominate

D:  $\langle V_i \rangle = 0$

11

12

## Conclusions of Hopfield (1984)

You can build "neuron-like" circuits using amplifiers and RC networks.

Analog values correspond to:

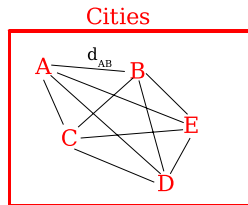
membrane voltage?

spike rate?

Overall behavior of these networks is similar to stochastic binary networks, even though the components are analog devices and even noisy.

## Hopfield & Tank: Neural Computation of Decisions in Optimization Problems

Let's solve the Traveling Salesman Problem.



Given a table of inter-city distances  $d_{xy}$  find a minimal-length tour.

$$X, Y = \begin{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} A \\ B \\ C \\ D \\ E \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix} = i, j$$

A single "1" in each row and each column.

13

## How to Solve TSP

Express TSP as a set of constraints on states of the  $N^2$  binary units in the  $N \times N$  solution matrix.

Map the constraints into terms in an energy function.

Find the minimum energy state.

Read off the solution to the original TSP problem.

We'll use 0/1 units for this task.

14

### Constraint #1: No City Visited Twice

$$E_1 = \frac{A}{2} \sum_X \sum_{i \neq j} V_{X,i} V_{X,j}$$

X ranges over cities. All terms of the summation will be zero if each row contains at most one 1.

15

### Constraint #2: Can't Be Two Places At Once

$$E_2 = \frac{B}{2} \sum_{X \neq Y} \sum_i V_{X,i} V_{Y,i}$$

i ranges over tour positions. All terms of the summation will be zero if each column contains at most one 1.

16

### Constraint #3: A Total of $n$ Cities Is Visited

$$E_3 = \frac{C}{2} \left[ \left( \sum_{X,i} V_{X,i} \right) - n \right]^2$$

This value will be zero if there are exactly  $n$  ones in the matrix.

17

### Constraint #4: Path Cost Determined by $d_{XY}$

$$E_4 = \frac{D}{2} \sum_{X \neq Y} \sum_j d_{XY} V_{X,i} (V_{Y,i-1} + V_{Y,i+1})$$

If we visit  $X$  at step  $i$ , and  $Y$  at step  $i-1$  or  $i+1$ , then count the distance  $d_{XY}$  as part of the tour.

18

## Complete Energy Function

$$E = E_1 + E_2 + E_3 + E_4$$

The constants  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  determine the relative weight of each constraint.

How can we derive the weights  $T_{ij}$ ?

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} T_{ij} V_i V_j$$

so 
$$T_{ij} = -\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial V_i \partial V_j} = \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial V_j}$$

19

## Weights for TSP

$$T_{Xi, Yj} = \frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial V_{X,i} \partial V_{Y,j}}$$

$$T_{Xi, Yj} = -A \delta_{XY} (1 - \delta_{ij}) - B \delta_{ij} (1 - \delta_{XY}) - C - D d_{XY} (\delta_{j,i-1} + \delta_{j,i+1})$$

$$\text{where } \delta_{ab} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } a=b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Solve TSP by using a continuous-valued Hopfield net and gradually lowering  $T$ .

$N$  cities,  $N^2$  units,  $N^4$  weights.

20

## Simulating TSP

$$\frac{du_{X,i}}{dt} = -u_{X,i}/\tau - A \sum_{j \neq i} V_{Xj} - B \sum_{Y \neq X} V_{Yi} - C \left[ \left( \sum_X \sum_j V_{Xj} \right) - n \right] - D \sum_Y d_{XY} (V_{Y,i-1} + V_{Y,i+1})$$

$$V_{X,i} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \tanh(u_{X,i}/u_0))$$

$u_0 = 1/\lambda$ : gain parameter

21

## Parameter Values for 10 City Problem

A = 500  
 B = 500  
 C = 200  
 D = 500

A, B, C large:  
 focus on legal tours

D large: minimize path length

n = 15 (heuristic for 10 cities)

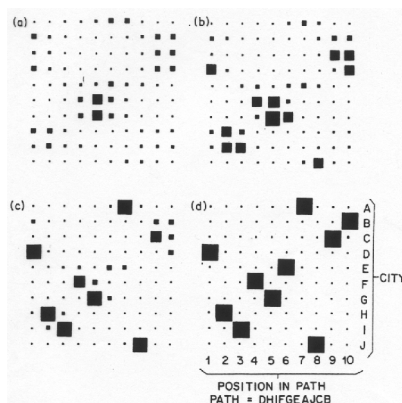
$u_{00}$  = value that gives  $\sum_X \sum_i V_{X,i} = 10$

Initial  $u_i = u_{00} + \delta u$

Random  $\delta u \in [-0.1, +0.1]$

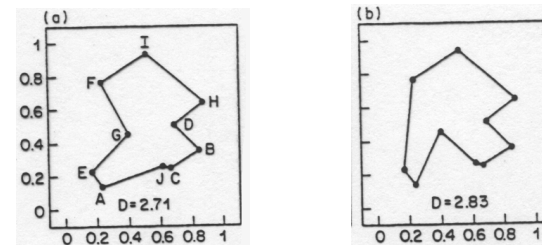
22

## Sample Run on 10 Cities



23

## Simulation Results



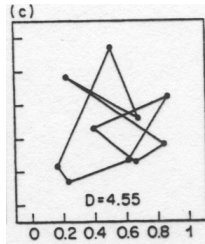
Optimal solution

Pretty good solution

Good results with gain  $u_0 = 0.02$  (i.e.,  $\lambda = 50$ )  
 Better results if  $u_0$  was slowly decreased.

24

## A Stochastic, Discrete (0/1) Network Produced Random Results



## Is This a Good Way to Solve TSP?

Not all stable states were valid solutions. (16/20)

Not all solutions were optimal. (50%, for 10 cities.)

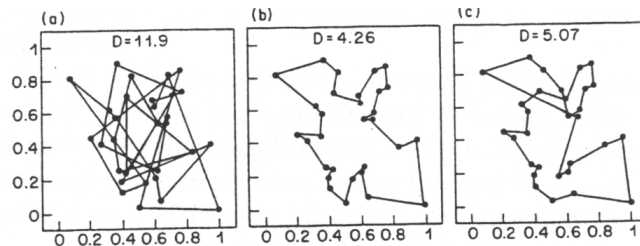
There are non-neural net algorithms that give better results.

But the basic idea of encoding a problem in an energy function is very interesting, and suggestive of general principles for how brains may compute.

25

26

## Needs Further Tuning for 30 City Problem



(a) Random tour; (b) Lin-Kernighan (non-neural) algorithm; (c) analog network with slowly decreasing gain.

## Mean Field Boltzmann Machines

Same idea as for Hopfield nets:

- Continuous-valued units
- Instead of annealing (stochastic units and falling temperature), use continuous units and increasing gain.
- Random initial conditions to break symmetry.
- Wake/sleep learning algorithm.

Settling is much faster than annealing.

Learning is still slow, but not as bad as with annealing.

Potential drawback: local minima.

27

28